

PREPPERBASE – SURVIVAL GARDEN GUIDE

Section 3: Seasonal Rotation Calendar

SEASONAL ROTATION CALENDAR

SPRING (MARCH–MAY)

- ▶ **March:** Plant early potato varieties, direct seed peas/beans, add compost to all beds
- ▶ **April:** Succession plant carrots & beets, hill potato plants, monitor for frost
- ▶ **May:** Plant corn after last frost, plant squash 2 weeks after corn, plant pole beans

SUMMER (JUNE–AUGUST)

- ▶ **June:** Monitor potatoes for late blight, succession plant bush beans, continue root vegetable succession
- ▶ **July:** Critical weed control in all sections, mulch squash heavily, check corn pollination
- ▶ **August:** Harvest early potatoes, begin drying beans on plant, harvest early succession roots

FALL (SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER)

- ▶ **September:** Plant winter wheat (if applicable), harvest main potatoes 2 weeks after vines die
- ▶ **October:** Harvest squash after first frost, cure at 80°F for 10–14 days, harvest dry beans
- ▶ **November:** Harvest all root vegetables before hard freeze, plant cover crops in empty sections

WINTER (DECEMBER–FEBRUARY)

- ▶ **Monthly:** Check stored crops, remove any damaged produce immediately
- ▶ **Planning:** Review rotation notes, plan next year's seed orders
- ▶ **Preparation:** Repair tools, organize storage areas, study crop improvement techniques

CRITICAL TIMING WARNINGS — DON'T HARVEST TOO EARLY

- △ Squash needs hard shell + first frost exposure before harvest
- △ Potatoes stay in ground 2 weeks after vines die completely
- △ Corn kernels must be completely hard and dry before picking
- △ Early harvest = crop won't store properly = months of lost food supply

COMMON FATAL MISTAKES

- △ **Monoculture thinking:** Planting only one crop = total crop failure from single disease
- △ **Ignoring climate reality:** Not all zones grow everything — choose varieties for YOUR zone
- △ **No succession planting:** Harvest everything at once = feast then famine
- △ **Poor soil preparation:** Depleted soil = poor yields regardless of technique
- △ **Overcrowding plants:** Creates disease conditions and reduces yields

YOUR MULTI-YEAR ACTION PLAN

- ▶ **Year 1:** Establish 4 sections, plant basics, document everything
- ▶ **Year 2:** First rotation, begin seed saving from easy crops
- ▶ **Year 3:** Second rotation, master storage timing
- ▶ **Year 4:** Third rotation, full cycle complete
- ▶ **Year 5:** Return to Year 1 layout with improved knowledge